

RADON

The Health Risks and Solutions

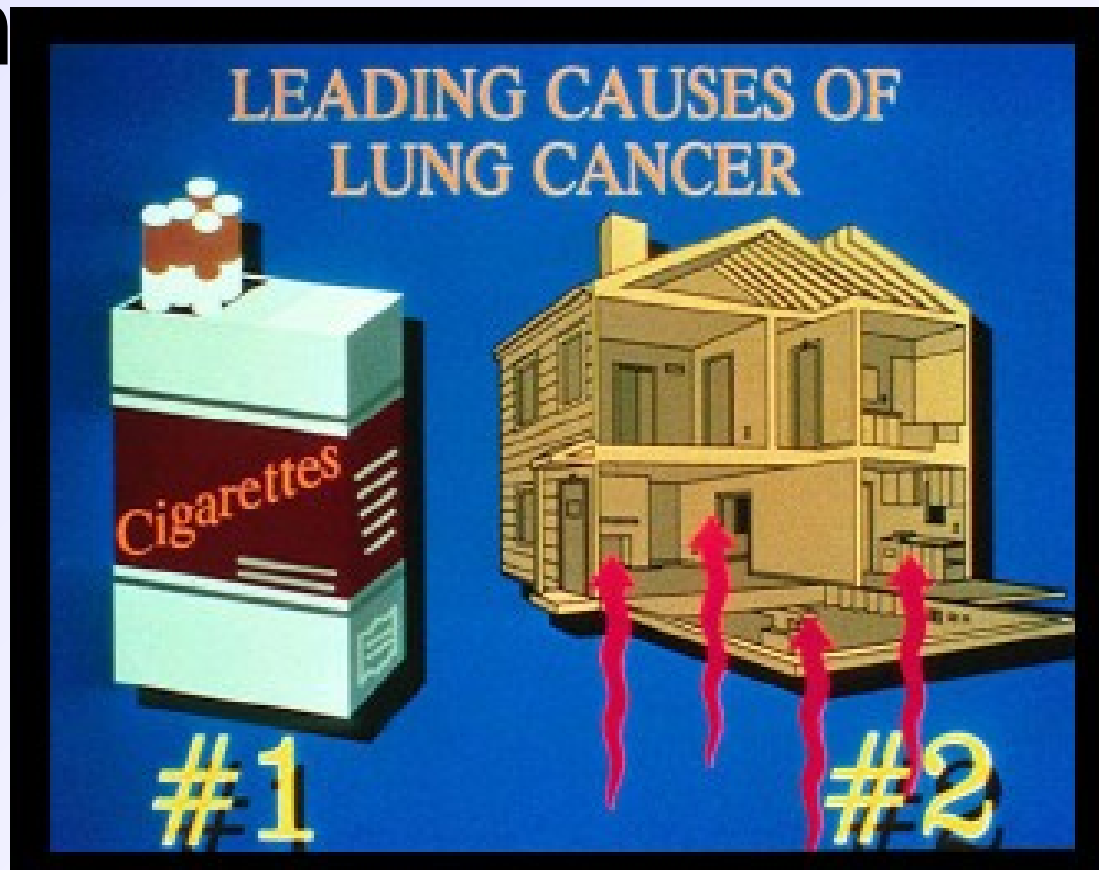


What is Radon?

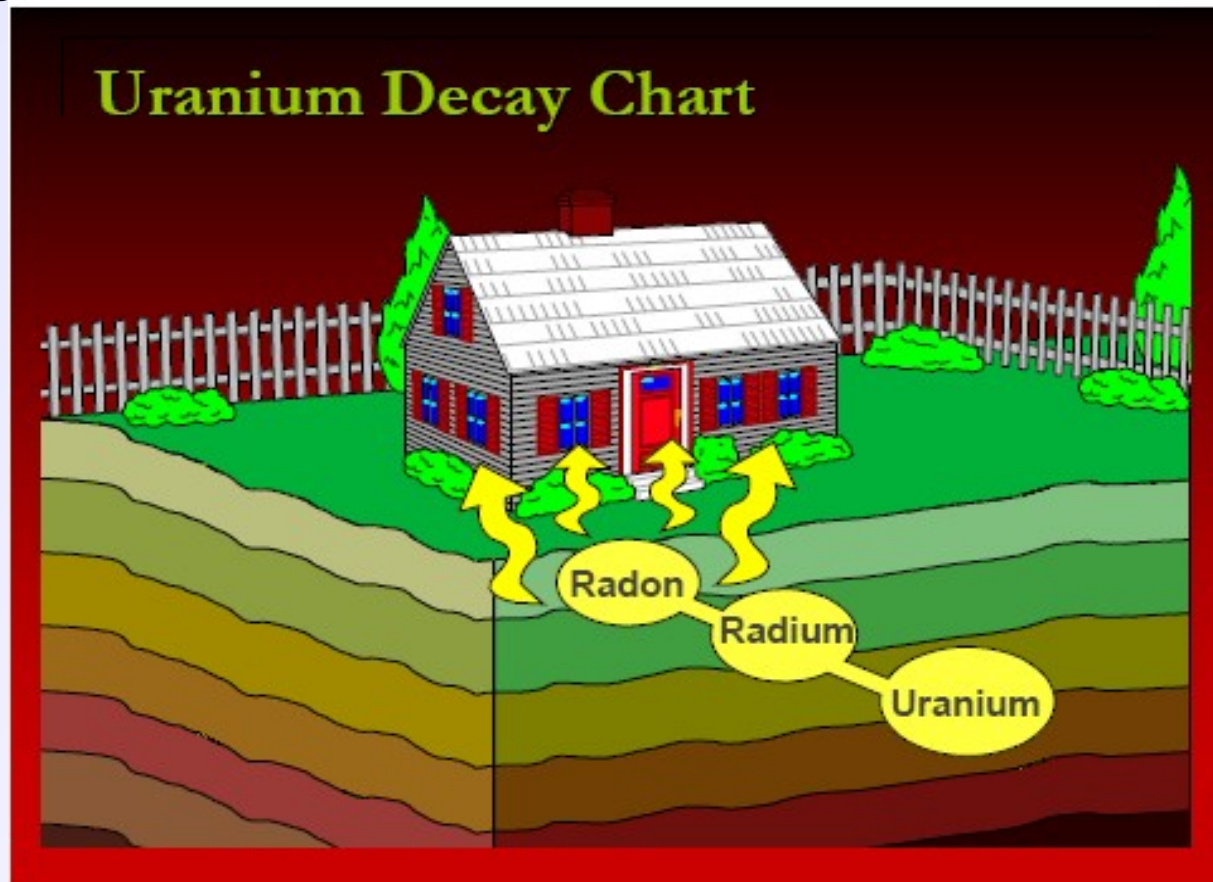
- A naturally occurring **radioactive gas**.
- Colorless, odorless and tasteless.
- Found all over the U.S. in all types of buildings.



Radon is 2nd leading cause of lung cancer ... and lung cancer death

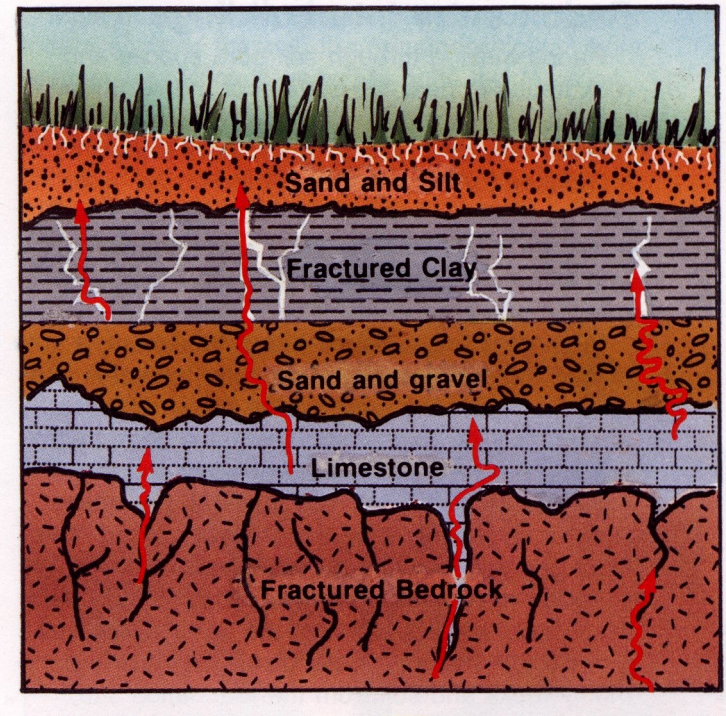


When atoms of uranium-238 decay, they produce several generations of other radioactive elements. The fifth generation is radium, which in turn decays into radon.

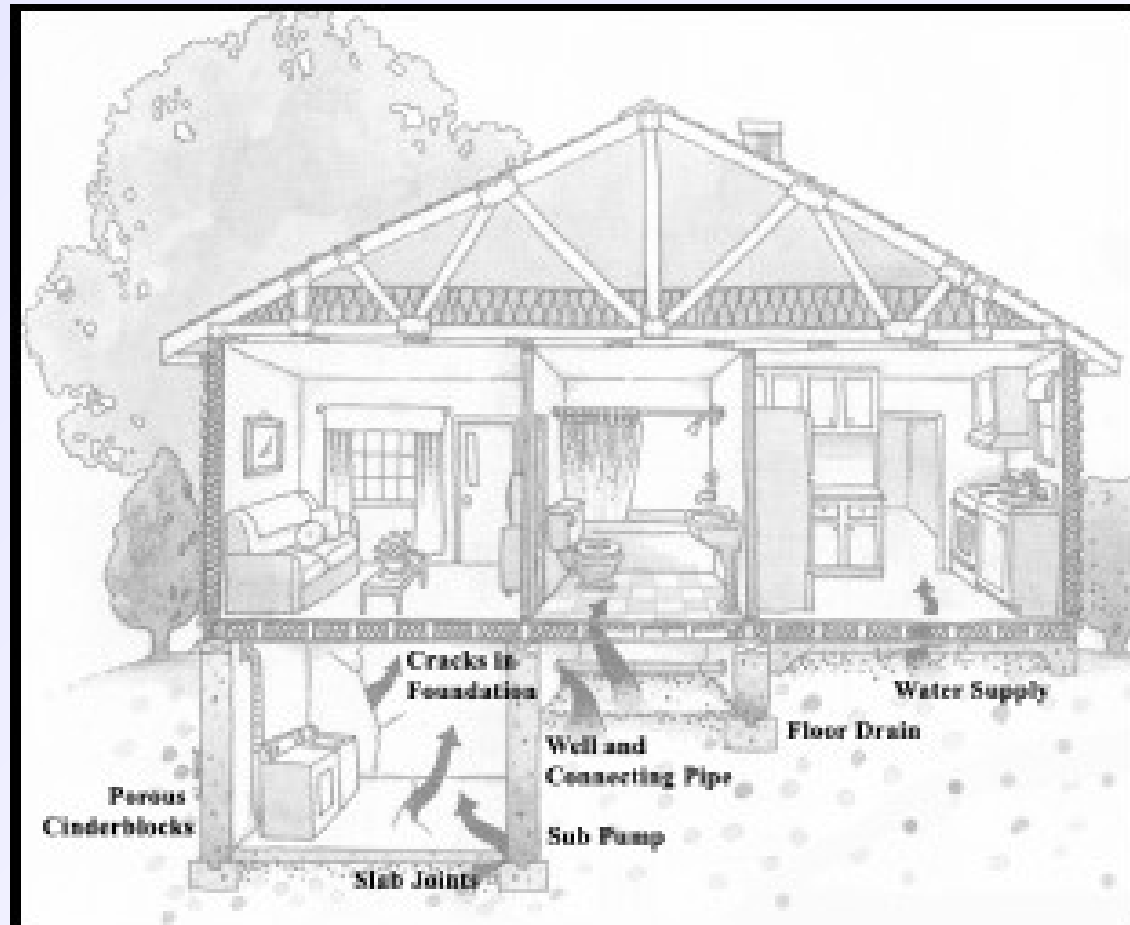


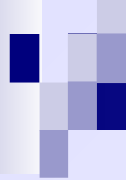
How Radon Gets into a Home

- The slightest fissure in surrounding rock is enough to allow radon gas to be released. It can percolate through the solid and move to the surface. Radon moves more readily through permeable soils, such as coarse sand and gravel, than through impermeable soils, such as clay. So homes built on highly permeable soils and bedrock are more likely to have higher levels of radon.



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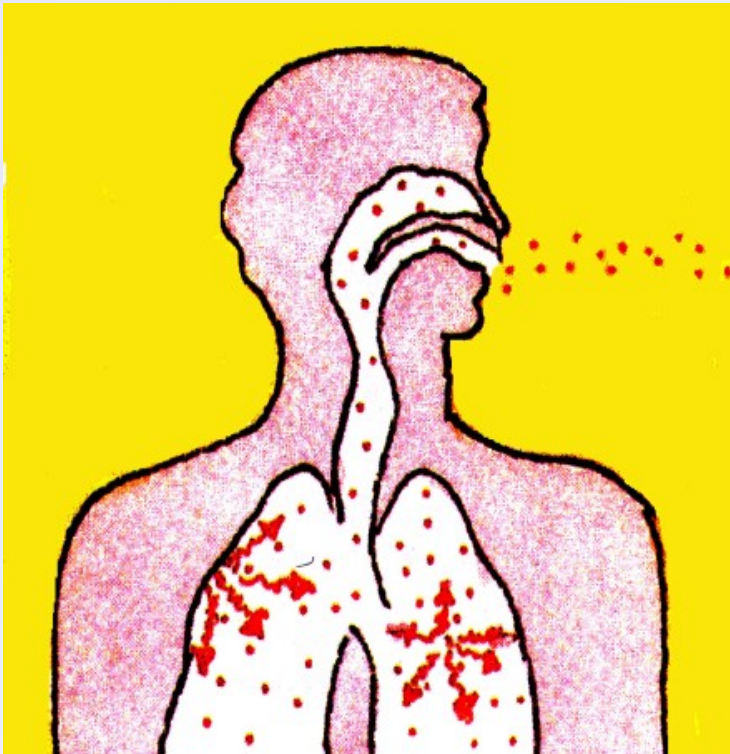




What are the Health Effects?

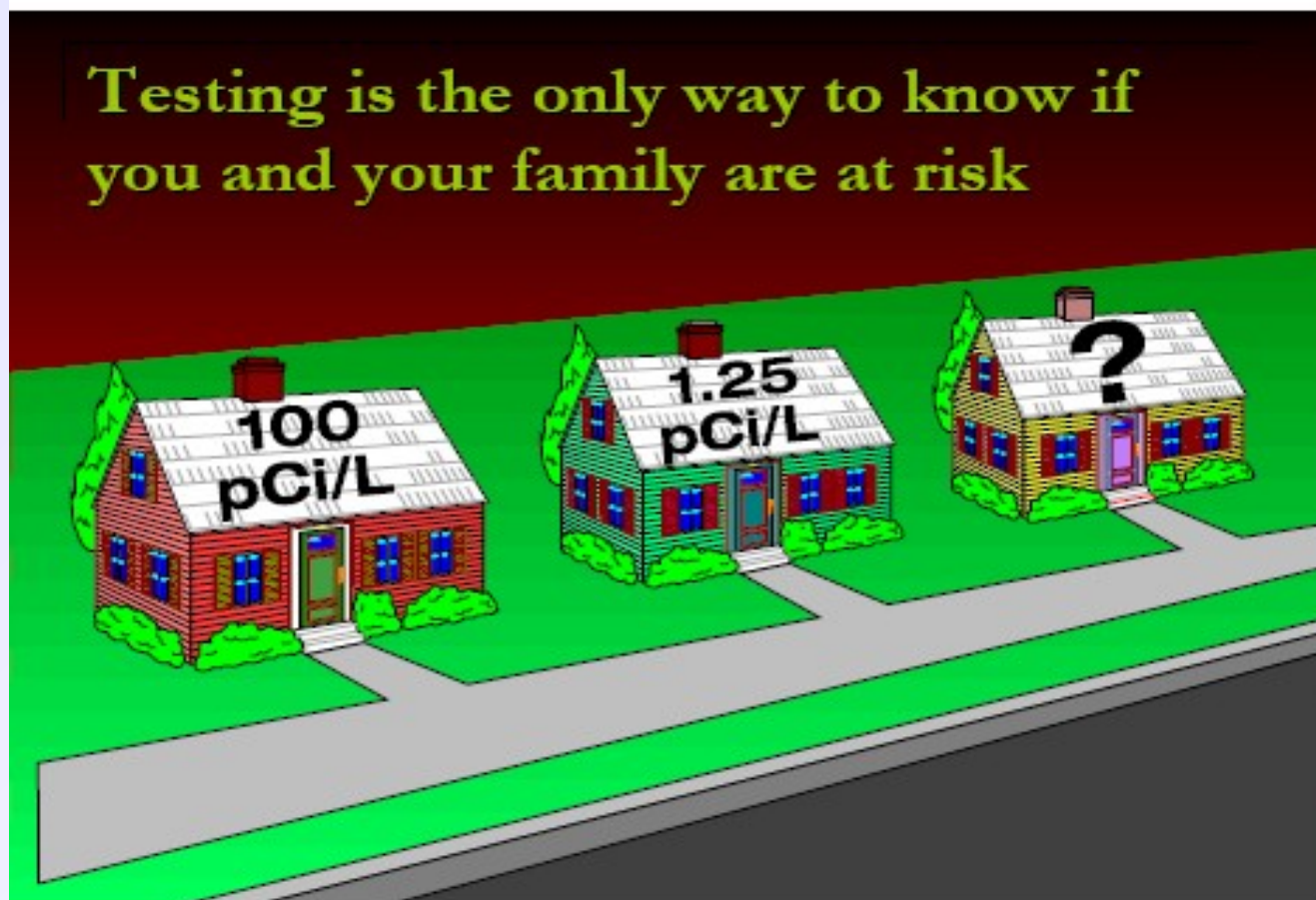
- Breathing air with elevated radon levels can increase your risk of lung cancer.
- Chances of getting lung cancer depends on:
 - How much radon is in your home
 - The amount of time you spend in your home
 - Whether you are a smoker or former smoker

How Radon Causes Lung Cancer



- Inhalation of Radon decay products (alpha particles).
- Alpha particles can penetrate the more sensitive and vulnerable lung tissue.

How Do I Find Out If My Home Has Radon?



Radon test kits can be obtained in hardware stores or from a local health agency (La Crosse) for around \$20.





How Can I Fix My House If It Has Elevated Levels?

- Contact a Radon Contractor who can:
 - Install a system to reduce radon levels
 - Prevent it from ever entering the living space



Can't I Just Seal Cracks in the Floor or Open Windows?

- Sealing visible cracks is a basic part of most radon mitigation approaches, but sealing alone is NOT enough.
- Opening doors and windows to dilute the radon may sometimes be effective, but it is NOT a practical long-term solution.



**Protect Your
Family:
TEST FOR RADON**